

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 are in this case. Claims 1-8, 17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under § 102(b). Claims 18, 21, 23-27 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 9-16, 22 and 25 have been objected to.

Independent claims 1 and 23, and dependent claims 6, 8, 9, 24-26 have now been amended. Dependent claims 2, 7 and 19 have now been canceled.

The Applicant believes that the claims before the Examiner now correspond substantially to allowable subject matter, as will be detailed below.

§ 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 17, 19 and 20 under § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Fussel (US 4,587,633). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, and without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the rejected claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend independent claim 1 to include limitations of cancelled claims 2, 7 and 19 as well as the following two new limitations:

- (i) said internal support structure including a closed loop having a maximum linear dimension which is at least 90% of a maximum linear dimension of said inflatable balloon; and
- (ii) said projection lens is configured to project through said closed loop onto at least 35% of said inflatable balloon.

With regard to the first new limitation of claim 1, page 10, lines 20-22 of the original filed application, describes inflatable balloon 15 as substantially spherical having sides equal sides 25 and 40. Additionally page 12, line 22 to page 13, line 2 describe ring 60 (closed loop) as being mechanically connected to inflatable balloon 15 along the substantially the complete circumference of ring 60 at the position where side 35 and side 40 overlap. Therefore, ring 60 has a maximum linear dimension (i.e. diameter) which is at least 90% of the maximum linear dimension of inflatable balloon 15. The closed loop of Fussel needs to be as small as possible, certainly having a maximum linear dimension less than 90% of a maximum linear dimension of the balloon, in order to keep the projectors as close to the axis of the balloon as possible in order to retain image size.

With regard to the second new limitation of claim 1, Figs. 3 and 4 show that the projected image can be projected onto the whole of side 40 through ring 60 (see the dashed lines which represent the widest light beams). Additionally, page 12, lines 8-10 describe a wide angle lens needed to reduce distortion at the curved edges of side 40, implying that the image is projected onto the whole of side 40. Therefore, the image is projected onto at least 35% of inflatable balloon 15. Fussel has four projectors and therefore each projector can only project onto 25% or less of the balloon.

§ 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 18, 21, 23-27 have been rejected under § 103(a). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

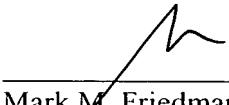
While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, and without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the rejected claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend independent claim 23 to include the

limitation of "folding" and "unfolding" the internal support structure. Folding the internal support structure is described on page 21, lines 22-23 of the originally filed application. "Unfolding" is described on page 22, lines 8-13 of the originally filed application. None of the prior art cited by the examiner appear to teach folding of an internal support structure due to wind conditions.

Dependent claims 6, 8, 9, 24 - 26 have also been amended to reflect the amendments of independent claims 1 and 23.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 23, and hence also dependent claims 3-6, 8-18, 20-22 and 24-27, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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